

THE NEWS

— of —

St. Michael's College



Alumni Association

January 9, 1939

Toronto 5, Ont.

A Miracle of Grace

ON Sunday, December 18th, at St. Basil's Church, a new priest celebrated his first High Mass. Two weeks after his 59th birthday Father William Ernest Cummer, C.S.B., D.D.S., F.A.C.D., said his first High Mass. This was the culmination of an odyssey which is unique in the annals of convert lives.

Born in Hamilton, December 4th, 1879, Father Cummer early joined the Methodist Church. His interest in music led him over many paths on his way to the Church. Successively he was a member and chorister in the Methodist, Baptist, Anglican Low and High Churches. In 1917, at the age of 37, he found his way into the fold. Four years later he attended the ordination of a friend and, in his own words, "I left the church with all former ambitions and plans replaced by the desire to become a priest."

Meanwhile he was becoming the outstanding authority on prosthetic dentistry and dental technology on the continent. For 25 years he was connected with the University of Toronto, member of six Dental Societies and licentiate of the Dominion Dental Council, associate editor of several publications and lecturer to dental groups throughout the continent. In 1931 he left the University of Toronto to found and become the Dean of the new Dental School at the University of Detroit.

On the death of his wife in 1933 Father Cummer resigned his office and entered the Congregation of the Priests of St. Basil. On June 11th, 1938, this searcher for the truth had accomplished his desire—he was a priest. Serious illness postponed the celebration of his first High Mass till December. Then in the presence of his fellow-priests, hundreds of dentists and friends from Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo, Boston, Chicago and other points, Father Cummer attained the peak of human greatness.

Father Cummer sang his First Mass, assisted by Msgr. McCann as Archpriest, Rev. Dr.

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Reverend H. S. Bellisle, C.S.B.

FATHER BELLISLE is dead. To hundreds of old St. Michael's men, to his classmates, to his teammates on championship hockey and football teams, to those who lived with him on the Irish Flat, to those who passed through the High School while he was principal, to the members of the numerous teams he coached, to those whom he taught, to those who came in contact with him while he was superior at St. Michael's, those words will bring a pang. Throughout his life and especially during the last years he was a great inspiration.

Twenty-three years in the Priesthood, twenty-seven years in the Religious life—we can only guess at the harvest of that all too short period. The numerous expressions of regret, the countless anecdotes, the almost tearful joy of those who rejoice in having known him—these are indications of the influence he exerted over the generations of students who passed through the old School.

He died at Assumption College, Sandwich, Ontario, early in the morning of December 28th. Confined to the hospital during the month previous, he was gradually rallying after numerous heart attacks which frequently threatened his life. On Christmas morning he was allowed once more, and for the last time, to ascend the altar steps to offer the Holy Sacrifice on his Master's birthday. Late Wednesday evening another attack came on from which he failed to rally.

He was buried from Assumption Church. A classmate, the Most Reverend R. H. Dignan, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie, sang the funeral Mass. Another classmate, a companion of novitiate and scholastic days and during the years of his administrative life, Father McCorkell, preached the sermon. He was buried among his former confreres in the Assumption cemetery.

Requiescat in Pace.

THE NEWS

*Devoted to the interests of
the Old Boys
of
St. Michael's College*

Published every now and then

Your Annual Fee

Once more this appeal is made to you for funds to carry on the work of the Alumni Association. The number, who are contributing annually to this work is gradually increasing; but we need a larger response before it be possible to develop the value of the Association. There is a vital work to be done. Catholic truth to be spread abroad, the Christian cure of present difficulties to be made known, developments in Catholic thought that you want to know. As old students of a Catholic College that is vitally interested in these questions, that has the truth to disseminate, you have still a part to play.

The yearly contribution was fixed at TWO DOLLARS at the last meeting of the Association. It is not a large amount. You always intend to send it along but forget about it. Before it slips your mind, why not send along your contribution for the year 1939. Take your place alongside the loyal supporters of this work—it is a worthwhile endeavour.

A Miracle of Grace

(Continued from page 1)

Phelan as deacon and Father Joseph McDonagh as sub-deacon. The Schola of St. Basil's Seminary, to which Father Cummer had belonged, sang. Father John Burke, C.S.P., came from New York to preach for the man whom he had baptized.

It is impossible for a spectator at that wonderful ceremony to express the rapture that must have welled in Father Cummer's heart, but no one left the church that morning unimpressed, no one remained unmoved. Father Cummer is now stationed at St. Michael's. To us he is an inspiration in his devotion, in his kindly charity, a teacher of appreciation of our Catholic faith and the priesthood. Ad multos annos.

The College Ball

January 27th, 1939, will be a red-letter day for the students of St. Michael's. After years of waiting, the first formal College Dance is to take place. This is the official undergraduate dance but so many of the Old Boys have longed for this occasion that it is expected there will be a goodly turnout of the Alumni. Already reservations have been made for many groups of Alumni. Hart House will be the scene of the festivities and Mel Hamill's orchestra has been secured to provide the music. The committee is sparing no efforts to make this dance a brilliant addition to the College activities.

Among the Alumni

Mr. Justice C. P. McTague, B.A., '16, of the Ontario High Court, was appointed, on December 7th, to the Appeal Court, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Chief Justice Latchford.

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In the Christmas Honours list five old boys received the title of King's Counsellor: Joseph M. Garvey, '14, of Toronto; Arthur J. Holmes, '19, of Toronto; W. S. Martin, B.A., '25, of Niagara Falls; Paul Martin, B.A., '25; (M.P., Essex), of Windsor; Edwin Rush, B.A., '25, of Toronto.

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Russ Callaghan, B.A., '26, of Hamilton, and now District Manager of the Retail Credit Association, with headquarters in Ottawa, visited at the school recently, while on his honeymoon.

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Thomas Sullivan, B.A., '38, is president of the Freshman Class at Albany Law.

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Niek Della Porta, Anthony Sacli, and Joseph Barone, all graduates of the class of '37, are now juniors at Marquette Medical School.

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On December 17th, the Most Reverend J. C. McGuigan raised seven young Basilians to the Holy Priesthood. Among them the following are graduates of St. Michael's: Rev. Paul Petrey, B.A., '33, Wellesville, N.Y.; Rev. Thomas S. Slattery, B.A., '35, Syracuse, N.Y.; Rev. Arthur J. O'Leary, B.A., '33, Toronto; Rev. Joseph L. Willett, B.A., '34, Bathurst, N.B.; Rev. Francis J. Sheahan, B.A., '34, Toronto. At the same time, the Rev. James Walsh,

AMONG THE ALUMNI (Continued)

who completed his High School course at St. Michael's College School in '32, was ordained. Father Walsh made his course at St. Francis Xavier Mission Seminary and will leave during the year for mission work in China.

The Reverend Michael F. Hannan, S.J., who finished his High School course at St. Michael's in '25 and joined the English Province of the Jesuit Fathers, was ordained in England, on September 6th. Father Hannan will continue his studies in England during the coming year, preparatory to his work on the African missions. To these young priests we all offer our sincere congratulations and our prayers that they may have many years to loyally serve their Master.

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The Troy Disabled American Veterans recently held a Memorial Service for Captain the Reverend Francis A. Kelley, '08. Father Kelley died on October 15, 1931.

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Ted Wiacek, B.A., '37, who gained his Master's degree in June, is now located at the St. Hubert Airport, Quebec, in the Meteorological Service.

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Charles Driscoll, B.A., '37, is teaching at Powassan, Ont.

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On Wednesday, November 30th, the Reverend John O'Connor, B.A., '14, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination in St. Helen's Parish, Toronto. The festive day opened with the Jubilarian's High Mass sung by the children of the school. The children held a concert in the afternoon for their pastor. A dinner in the evening and a concert sponsored by the Sodality at which a spiritual bouquet and a purse were presented to Father O'Connor completed a happy day.

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The Reverend Frank Pennylegion celebrated the 25th anniversary of his Ordination on December 14th. At the High Mass in the morning the choir sang the Mass of the Blessed Sacrament as a token to their pastor's zeal in the spread of the devotion to Christ in the Eucharist. In the evening, after the Holy Hour, a reception and presentation took place in the Parish Hall.

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We have just heard of the death of Mr. S. M. Keenan, '79, at Eloise, Michigan. Mr. Keenan was Financial Administrator of the Eloise Hospital and Infirmary for nearly half a century.

He developed an early interest in the study of electricity and his hobby led to the establishment of an X-Ray laboratory in the Eloise Hospital in 1896. In the same year he was instrumental in providing the first medical use of the Roentgen ray in Michigan, and one of the first on the continent, for foreign body demonstration.

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The Syracuse Chapter of the Alumni arranged a dance for December 29th, at which about a hundred couples enjoyed themselves. The committee in charge, Wm. Kendricks, '28, Thomas Wren, '35, and David Reed, '37, was aided by Father Joseph Canfield, B.A., '15. Earlier in the evening these gentlemen tendered a dinner to the Seminarians resident in Syracuse. Ten old boys who are studying for the priesthood were the guests of the committee at the Syracuse Hotel.

St. Michael's Night

The annual St. Michael's Night at the Maple Leaf Gardens will be held on Wednesday, January 18th. St. Michael's Buzzers will play Northern Vocational in the first game at 7.45, and the undefeated Majors will play the undefeated Oshawa Generals in the second game.

Let this be a banner occasion for all St. Michael's Old Boys. Bring your friends along with you.

Booster tickets will be available. The general admission to the Blue Section will be twenty-five cents with a Booster ticket.

Remember the date: Wednesday, January 18th.

What part soever you have taken upon you, play that as well as you can, and make the best of it. And do not therefore disturb and bring out of order the whole matter, because that another, which is merrier and better cometh to your remembrance. So the case standeth in the commonwealth, and so it is in the consultations of kings and princes. If evil opinions and naughty persuasions can not be utterly and quite plucked out of their hearts, if you can not even as you would remedy vices, which use and custom hath confirmed; yet for this cause you must not leave and forsake the commonwealth; you must not forsake the ship in a tempest, because you can not rule and keep down the winds. No, nor you must not labour to drive into their heads new and strange informations, which you know well shall be nothing regarded with them that be of clean contrary minds. But you must with a crafty wile and subtle brain study and endeavour yourself, as much as in you lieth, to handle the matter wittily and handsomely for the purpose, and that which you can not turn to good, so to order it that it be not very bad. For it is not possible for all things to be well, unless all men are good. Which I think will not be yet this good many years.—St. Thomas More.

FATHER BELLISLE'S LAST MESSAGE TO ST. MICHAEL'S MEN

Father Bellisle preached the Students' Retreat in Holy Week, 1938. This is his last message to the students and old boys of St. Michael's as it appeared in the *Thurible* of 1938:

It was my privilege to live with you during your Annual Retreat. The same virile piety which characterized St. Michael's students in the past is present amongst you in even greater intensity than in former years. There is amongst you a realization of the seriousness of the times in which we live and of the necessity of being prepared by virtue and knowledge to meet its problems in a Christian manner.

Perhaps never before in the history of St. Michael's was a more important task imposed upon her students and graduates. The Church, like Our Blessed Lord Himself, went into retreat in 1870 when Pius IX closed the doors of the Vatican. The last act in the drama begun as the Reformation had to be completed before the world was ready for a new Christian apostolate which must result in the formation of a new Christendom. With the re-opening of the doors of the Vatican in 1929 by Pius XI, the Church began her new apostolate. She has engaged Satan and all who take part with him in a new conflict. She has challenged his right, in the name of her leader who is the Saviour of the world, to make it impossible for men to save their souls within the temporal order. Our Pontiff, Pius XI, has summoned you to labour with him to bring to birth the new Christendom.

The youth in mediaeval times, clothed in steel and armed with shield and sword, were sent by His Holiness to rescue the holy places from the hands of the infidel. He sends you upon an equally perilous mission, armed no longer with material weapons but with armoured souls, disciplined by truth and virtue, to rescue invisible sanctuaries of mind and heart, from the prince of darkness. Your battles are to be fought upon the highways of the mind, using the same weapons which Jesus

Christ and His apostles used in the conquest of a pagan world.

Your mission resembles in many respects the mission of the early Church. The truth of the prophecy of Cardinal Newman is now evident: there can be no *via media* between Catholicism and unbelief. Your mission is, to a great extent, to souls upbaptized and as yet untouched by Christian truth. The first Christians in their conquest used purely Christian means. They opposed humility to pride, mortification to sensual living, and faith to reliance upon unprotected human reason. They realized that God is Sovereign over both the spiritual and temporal orders and has promised to send in answer to prayer grace and seasonable aid. They were prepared to sacrifice citizenship in an earthly kingdom to make more secure citizenship in a kingdom which is Divine. Using these weapons, they carved out for their Master a kingdom. The eagles of Rome found shelter under the Cross of Christ. You, using the same weapons, can hope for equally magnificent results. You are the Knights of the New Christendom.

Like the rich young man in the Gospel, you have great possessions, not material possessions but spiritual treasures of mind and heart more precious than silver and gold. You must be prepared, no matter what be your special task in life, whether it be as priest, doctor, lawyer, writer or financier, to see Jesus Christ in your neighbour and to love and serve him in that spirit. "I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was sick and in prison and you visited me." Whether your ministry be directly to the soul, as in the case of the priest and teacher, or directly to the body as in the case of the doctor, it must be to Jesus Christ served in His members. So labouring, not only shall you save your own souls but you shall be lending all your energies to the formation of a new temporal order wherein your Master, Jesus Christ, will be allowed to minister fully to men and to lead them in ever increasing numbers out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Rev. H. S. Bellisle, C.S.B.

Around the School

The Staff enjoyed their Christmas dinner in the new refectory. The students are moving in as they return from their holidays. The building is not yet complete but will be ready for the official opening at our Alumni reunion during the summer.

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For the third year in succession the Junior A team captured the S.P.A. trophy in the pre-season series for junior hockey teams of the province. In the O.H.A. series this team has not yet suffered defeat. When asked about

the prospects, Dr. Jerry Laflamme smilingly said, "It's a little early for predictions yet, but I think that this is our year."

The Buzzers have not yet opened their campaign.

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Dr. Gilson completed his course of lectures on December 19th and sailed for France for his spring course of lectures at the College de France.

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Father Oliver has outlined in a pamphlet the work and objectives of the Marylake Farm School project. He would be glad to send a copy of this pamphlet to those who are interested in the project.

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To The St. Michael's College Alumni Association, Dr.

Cheques should be made payable to the Association, negotiable at par in Toronto.

To membership in the St. Michael's College Alumni Association (including membership in the Alumni Federation of the University of Toronto).

From January 1st to December 31st, 1939

\$200

Life membership—\$50.00 in one payment or in 5 yearly instalments will pay for all membership dues.

Here is a brief news item for the News

For \$1.50 extra you may have the University of Toronto Monthly for a year.
For \$1.00 extra you may have the *Thurible*.

AROUND THE SCHOOL (Continued)

Reverend Dr. Phelan and Reverend Fr. Dwyer attended the Catholic Philosophical Association meetings at Cincinnati during Christmas week. Among the graduates who were present were Reverend Father Owen, C.S.S.R., of Woodstock College; Professor Bourke, of the University of St. Louis; Professor Thompson of the University of Detroit; Professor Pegis of Fordham University; Professor Muller-Thym of the University of St. Louis; Rev.

Father Heiser, O.F.M., from Ohio; Rev. Father Garvey, of Assumption College; Professor C. Wien, of Barat College, Ill.

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With the kind permission and approval of the Archbishop of Toronto, Most Reverend J. C. McGuigan, the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother will begin in St. Basil's Church on January 25th. Father Joseph Walsh, the Pastor, has erected the stations for this, one of the oldest of Marian devotions. May she mantle the parish and the school with her blessings.

YOUR ALUMNI NEWS

